

## Lisa at Southland Health Care Forum Pathways to Health Care Occupations

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Lisa Waldroup was a student in the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) pilot program at Southland Health Care Forum, part of the Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) funded by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance. This initial cohort of students began on June 6, 2011, and blazed a trail in their program which future Southland students could follow.

Some of the first things that stood out about Lisa were her attention to detail, professionalism, and winning attitude. She is a natural-born leader whose organizational skills showed very quickly. Lisa was as responsible as anyone was for helping to stabilize her cohort. She did so by organizing study sessions and even opening up her home to host the sessions for students who wished to attend.

Nursing, like most medical professions, has a very rigorous curriculum, and how well a student masters it is measured in three ways. One, is the student able to handle the academics? Two, can the student replicate academic understanding through practical application in the clinical setting? Three, does the student have the necessary mental toughness and resiliency? This last factor is often vastly unappreciated and may be overlooked when people consider what makes a successful student and nurse. Not only are the understanding and practical application necessary, but also the resiliency of spirit to push through when those days get rough.

Students will have ups and downs, and there will be some rough days in nursing. Those who have the spirit of a Lisa Waldroup push through, excel, and achieve. It takes much more than the passing of a competency exam to be a nurse. It truly is a life calling. Lisa exemplifies and embodies the meaning of this term.

The staff at Southland are extremely proud to call her Nurse Lisa Waldroup, LPN. Lisa is excited about her future as a Nurse and looking forward to giving back to her community.